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Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07

H-03 DRC-01 /091 W
---------- 082306
R 041157Z APR 74
FM AMBMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5994

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS;: ETRN, PFOR, CZ, US
SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT
REF: PRAGUE 592, STATE 56870

1. CZECHS HAVE ACCEPTED EXTENSION PROPOSAL UNCONDITION-
ALLY, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC RIGHTS FOR COPENHAGEN.
THEY HAVE EXPRESSED PRFERENCE FOR EXTENSION FOR TWO YEARS
OR, AS SECOND CHOICE, UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1975 BUT WILL
ACCEPT ONE YEAR AS PROPOSED. CZECHS ASKED THAT US NOW
INITIATE EXCHANGE OF NOTES, WITH WHICHEVER EXTENSION
TERM WE WILL ACCEPT, AND CZECHS WILL CONFIRM IN REPLY.

2. ESSENTIAL ARGUMENT FOR LONGER EXTENSION MADE BY
ZANTOVSKY AND THREE OFFICIALS OF TRANSPORT MINISTRY
AROSE OUT OF REITERATION OF CONVICTION THAT CSA SHOULD.
AND WOULD, IMPROVE PAA'S SHARE OF MARKET. CSA WOULD
BETTER DEMONSTRATE ITS IMPROVED PERFORMANCE IF IT COULD
DO SO OVER TWO TRAVEL SEASONS RATHER THAN ONE. CZECHS
CONCEDED THAT DOMESTIC FINANCE AND TRAVEL REGULATIONS
INHIBITED TRAVEL TO US AND PAA'S OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT
MARKET, AND SUGGESTED THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN PRACTICE MIGHT
NOT BE FULLY APPARENT DURING ONE YEAR EXTENSION.

3. LONGER EXTENSION WOULD OBVIOUSLY EASE TIME PRESSURE ON
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CZECHS TO IMPROVE PAA SITUATION HERE. ON OTHER HAND, GIVEN

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DYNAMICS OF TOTALITARIAN BUREAUCRACIES, THERE IS SOME
REALITY IN IMPLIED PLEA THAT MORE TIME IS NEEDED TO SATISFY
PAA. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT CZECHS RECOGNIZE RISK THAT WE
WILL TERMINATE AGREEMENT IF PAA DECIDES TO WITHDRAW SERVICE, AND
THAT THEY INTEND TO AVOID THIS IF POSSIBLE IN ORDER NOT TO
LOSE IMPORTANT SERVICE TO US. BEYOND THIS, WE HAVE NO INFOR-
MATION OR VIEWS WHICH WOULD ARGUE FOR OR AGAINST LONGER EXTEN-
SION. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PAA REP, INCIDENTALLY, THAT PAA
HEADQUARTERS ANTICIPATES TOW-YEAR EXTENSION AND IS NOT
OPPOSED TO IT.

4. REQUEST THAT, WHEN QUESTION OF EXTENSION TERM HAS BEEN
SETTLED, DEPARTMENT CONVEY INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDING, WE ASSUME,
TEXT OF NOTE WE ARE TO DELIVER. CZECHS HAVE ASKED IF WE CAN
DELIVER NOTE BEFORE END OF APRIL, TO ASSURE TIME FOR REPLY
WELL BEFORE EXPIRY DATE.
WORTZEL

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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